



SB23-061

ELIMINATE STATE ASSESSMENT IN SOCIAL STUDIES



Senators Marchman and Kolker; Representatives Kipp and Lukens

Colorado students are over-tested.

The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 reduced federal testing mandates, but Colorado requires testing beyond federal requirements for elementary and middle schoolers ages 8-14.

Colorado children spend 9-13 hours per year in standardized testing. Federal law requires ELA, Math and Science tests. Colorado law requires Social Studies tests.

Eliminating the social studies statewide assessment could reduce negative impacts of testing on students, improve opt-in rates for other tests, and narrow post-pandemic recovery focus around ELA and STEM.



What will SB61 Do?

- ✍ Eliminate statewide assessment in social studies.
- ✍ Leave \$1.025M in the State Education Fund to reinvest.

How could the state best reinvest these savings?

- To support high-quality social studies instruction.
- To improve participation rates on other tests.
- To measure growth in science.

How does Colorado safeguard civics instruction without a statewide assessment in social studies?

- Standards in grades P-12 cover civics, financial literacy, geography and history, including the history, culture, and social contributions of minorities.
- Students have a civics graduation requirement.
- Social studies assessments are and will continue to be administered, just not as statewide tests.



Annual statewide tests that measure growth ensure diversity, equity and inclusion in schools.

Colorado social studies and science tests are not given annually and do not measure growth, only achievement. ELA and Math are given annually and measure growth.



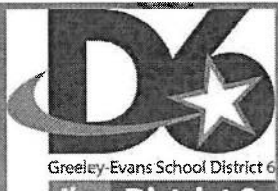
Statewide testing can negatively impact student mental health.

Students can experience increased anxiety, panic, irritability, frustration, boredom, headaches, and loss of sleep before, during and after statewide testing.

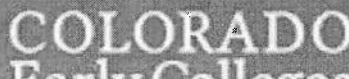


Families and educators want to support students post-pandemic.

SB61 correctly enables educators and their efforts to help students recover from learning loss in ELA and STEM.



Colorado School
for the Deaf and the Blind



Dr. Katy Anthes– Colorado Commissioner of Education (CDE)



“We support this bill on behalf of a *unanimous state board vote. Social studies is important. Civics is important. We have required coursework in civics to graduate high school and in addition to assessments, we are focusing with our districts to help our students catch up on reading, math, and social studies.* We have made the calculation that with the frequency of testing, the number of students taking the test, and with the already existing civics requirements, there are other ways to show that social studies matter. When taking this into consideration, the costs of the Social Studies CMAS test outweigh the benefits.”

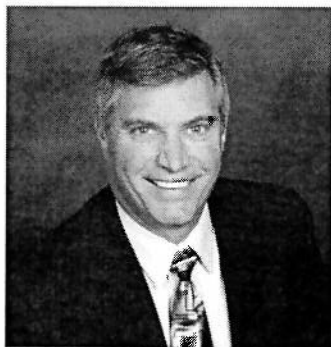
Jen Walmer – ED of Democrats for Education Reform



“At DFER, we believe annual statewide assessments are critical tools for the fight to increase student equity. Despite this, the CMAS Social Studies exam is given on a sampled basis – only a third of our schools and a third of our students take the exam. *The data collected gives a dismissed snapshot of performance and most importantly doesn’t allow for a growth assessment to understand how schools and districts are impacting student achievement.*

Suspending the Social Studies requirement will allow our schools to focus on the Federally required summative assessments.”

Kevin Vick– VP of Colorado Education Association



“*Our students are over-tested and we support reducing unnecessary testing to focus that time on high-quality, high-caliber social studies instruction.* These exams put unnecessary stress on our students and we have better tools available to measure student growth. Please join CEA, CASE, CASB, and RSA in support of SB23-061.”